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REMARKS

The present response is to the Office Action mailed in the above-referenced case on May 26, 2004. Claims 1-21 are reproduced below for examination. Claims 1-4 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Safanov et al. ("Towards Web Macros: a Model and a Prototype System for Automating Common Tasks on the Web"), hereinafter Safanov. Claims 5-12 and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Safanov in view of Anupam et al. (" Automating Web Navigation with the WebVCR"), hereinafter Anupam.

Applicant has carefully studied the prior art references cited and applied by the Examiner in this case, and the Examiner's rejections and statements of the instant Office Action. In response, applicant herein amends the claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of applicant's invention regarded as patentable. Applicant points out and argues the key and patentable aspects of applicant's invention, as recited in the claims as amended, which distinguished applicant's invention clearly and unarguably over the prior art presented, either singly or in combination.

Applicant herein amends the language of independent claim 12 to recite a software application for creating and executing an automated Web browser navigation and task automation sequence wherein user Web navigation and Web site interaction is recorded, converted to an executable sequence for conducting automated navigation and tasks, including one or both of auto-registration or secure login if required. Applicant reproduces claim 1 below as amended for convenience.

Applicant's claim 1 now recites:

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1. A software application for creating and executing an automated Web browser navigation and task automation sequence comprising:

a session recording module for recording user Web navigation and interaction activity associated with a manual navigation and interaction sequence;

a file creation module for converting data of a manual session into data comprising an executable sequence of instructions for conducting an automated navigation and task automation sequence; and

an application-program-interface module for integrating a functional capability with the automated navigation and task sequence, characterized in that a completely automated, browser-navigation and task sequence, including one or both of auto-registration or secure login if required, is performed by the browser application is, enabled through execution of the executable instruction sequence created from the recorded parameters of the manual navigation and task sequence.

Applicant's claim 13 recites applicant's method for creating the executable instruction file for performing an automated navigation sequence, in accordance with the limitations of claim 1. Applicant accordingly amends the language of claim 13 similarly to that made for claim 1.

Applicant now wishes to direct the Examiner's attention to the key and patentable aspects of applicant's invention, which are enabled in many embodiments described in applicant's specification, wherein user auto-registration and/or login is enabled by an instance of software adapted to physically navigate to a target Web site on behalf of the user, and register the user to the target site or service. Data that is gathered after an auto-registration function by the user may include accepted secured login names and passwords to the Web site, such that in addition to physically navigating on behalf of the user to the Web site and retrieving data from the site, auto-registration and login sequences may also be performed at the Web site on behalf of the user, with little or no user interaction.

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The auto registration capability of applicant's invention is intended to eliminate, or at least minimize the repetitive data-entry of chosen passwords, login codes, user names, etc., and applicant's invention all of such data may be generated and submitted by the auto registration process, and may be accomplished completely without user involvement. Auto registration and login by proxy to many different Web sites on behalf of requesting users is made possible by applicant's invention, for virtually any offered service that might be obtained through the Internet by interactive form, regardless of the registration or login requirements of the Web site, or other interactive restrictions.

In applicant's invention, referring now to applicant's specification, specifically pertaining to figure 11, it is described therein that successful registration information, including user notification thereof and a record of successful and accepted values submitted for future login purposes, such as user names, passwords, or other such required login codes is returned to the requesting user by data return module 265. The values may be used immediately to login on behalf of the user and obtain data for the user from the Web site if the instruction sequence so dictates.

Applicant's figure 3 discloses a recording module 407, which enables a manual navigation sequence to be completely recorded with respect to browser and user activities, integrating its functionality with that of the Web browsing application to create a recorded event to be rendered as the executable instruction sequence. Applicant's invention enables a completely automated Web navigation and Web site task sequence to be recreated from a manual session by recording the exact network path taken by the browsing user, HTML structures, understanding the feature-locations within the structures as well as locations and formats of interactive forms, and recording the exact user data input as entered in a manual session, including all secure and/or nonsecure data required for registration and login. The recording module further provides all of the required interfaces to utilities generic to a typical browser application as well as to those utilities provided for enabling extended functionality.

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The Examiner has stated that the reference of Safanov teaches applicant's recording module for recording parameters associated with a manual navigation sequence. However, applicant must argue that, in contrast to applicant's invention, the reference of Safanov fails to teach or suggest producing any automated Web activity instruction sequence which also has the capability for auto-registration or secure login on behalf of the requesting user, or any other Web tasks outside of simply navigating to the Web site and retrieving simple documents from the Web site.

Safanov teaches a system for creating Web macros at a proxy location, comprising a recording component which parses HTTP requests and replies and writes navigation actions to the interaction database. The system captures cookies and associates them with documents for which cookies were sent by the server, and navigation actions and documents are time-stamped and identified. The user navigates to the special URL for macro creation, and the script generator reads user interaction data stored in a database, attempting to generate the WebL[KM98] script which will retrieve the document desired by the user. After the attempts are made to retrieve the document, and a successful retrieval is accomplished, the script is saved in the database for future execution by the user.

Applicant strongly believes, however, that Safanov falls short in teaching creation of a fully automated Web navigation and activity sequence, which is also enabled for auto-registration and login on behalf of the requesting user, as is taught in applicant's invention and now specifically recited in applicant's base claims. Applicant's invention teaches a completely automated Web navigation and activity sequence, which eliminates many of repetitive data-entry of chosen passwords, login codes, user names, etc. All of such data may be generated and submitted by the auto registration process, and may be accomplished completely without user involvement, regardless of the registration or login requirements of the Web site, or other interactive restrictions. The reference of Safanov, on the other hand, teaches creating simple macros for enabling the user to automatically navigate back to the Web site and retrieve a document, or fill out and submit a form, but the capabilities of the invention clearly stop there.

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As argued above by applicant, the invention of Safanov is not capable of creating the executable sequence for completely automated user navigation and Web activity has taught applicant's invention, and recited in applicant's claims as amended. Applicant therefore believes that independent claims 1 and 13 are then patentable as amended over the primary reference of Safanov. All of the depending claims have been amended to agree in language with their respective base claims. Depending claims 2-4 and 14-16 are then patentable over Safanov on their own merits, or at least as depended from a patentable claim.
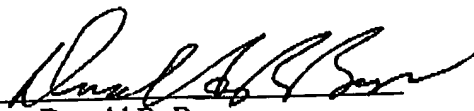
The Examiner has rejected claims 5-12 and 17-21 as being unpatentable over Safanov in view of Anupam. All of the claims are depending claims, and in view of the above claim amendments and argument presented herein by applicant, Safanov fails as a primary reference for the reasons argued above, and therefore fails in combination with Anupam to produce all of applicant's claimed limitations. Claims 5-12 and 17-21 are patentable as amended or on their own merits, or at least as depended from patentable claim.

As all of the claims left standing and as amended are clearly shown to be patentable over the prior art presented, applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn and that the case be passed quickly to issue.

If any fees are due beyond fees paid with this amendment, authorization is made to deduct those fees from deposit account 50-0534. If any time extension is needed beyond any extension requested with this amendment, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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